

Distinguished members of the Health Appropriations Committee:

My name is Dean Delach; I live in Farmington. I am a supporter of CT Against Gun Violence.

I support the \$2.5 million included in the Governor's budget on Line T1449 for the Department of Public Health to fund gun violence intervention grants in fiscal year 2024, and \$400,000 on Line 274 each year for operational expenses.

But really, the appropriation of \$2.5 million to fund gun violence intervention is only a good start; the legislature should do more. Why? Because the issue of gun violence is one of the few issues the legislature deals with that is truly a life-or-death issue impacting so many people, including many children and young adults.

Fortunately, CT has strong gun laws and law enforcement; but that is not sufficient to de-escalate conflict and reduce the violence that too often involves guns. Gun violence is a public health crisis and Connecticut needs to invest in public health approaches, similar to how we approach other public health issues.

Community intervention programs have been proven to substantially reduce gun violence. Beyond the loss of life, it's estimated that gun violence of all kinds costs CT taxpayers between \$60 and \$90 million annually, and carries a yearly societal cost of up to \$1.2 billion. So, for many reasons investing in efforts to reduce gun violence makes sense.

I hope the Committee will seriously consider the impact of gun violence on our communities and take appropriate steps to fund gun violence prevention programs throughout the state.

Sincerely,

Dean Delach
Farmington, CT